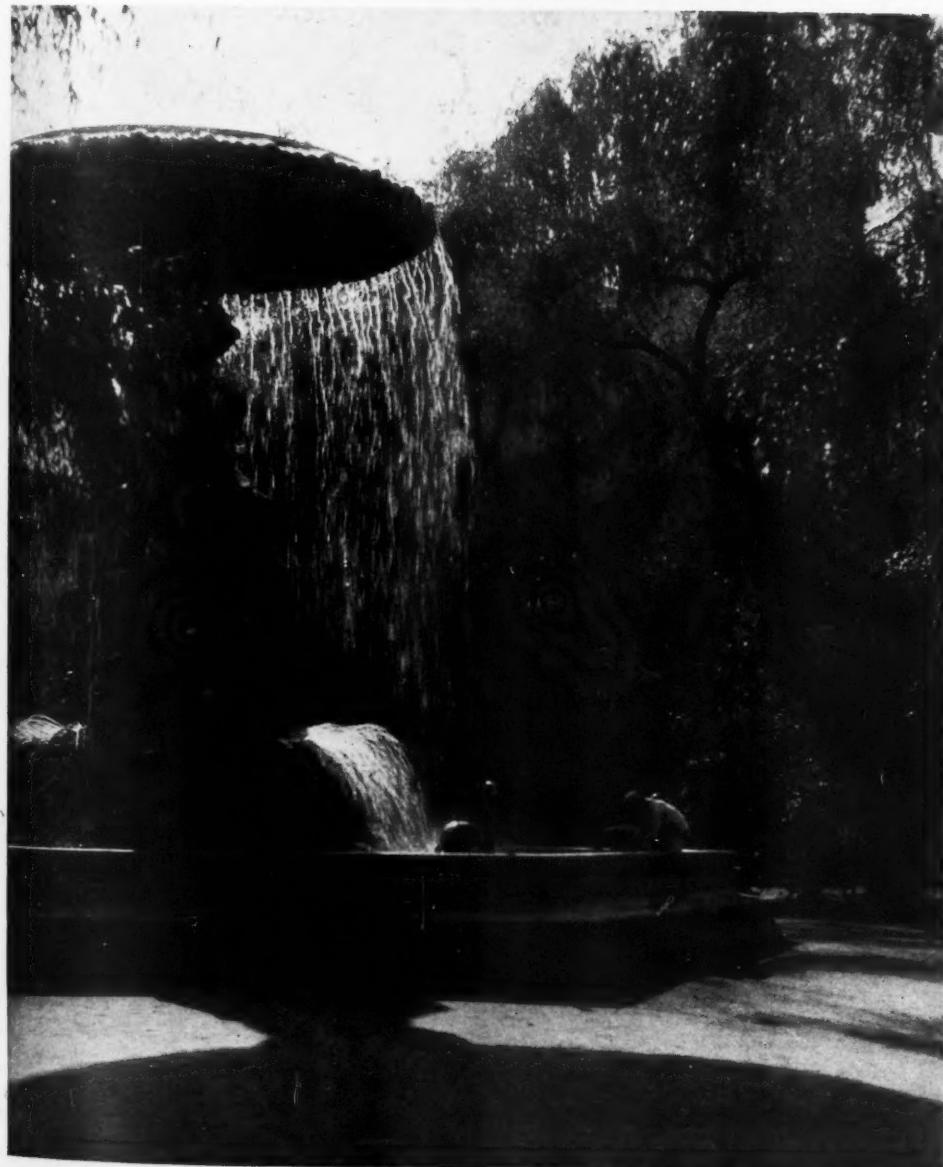


PUBLIC DOCUMENT
GENERAL LIBRARY
UNIV. OF MICH.

APRIL, 1924
MAD. 2.0. 1004

•THE•AMERICAN•

SCANDINAVIAN REVIEW



MOLIN'S FOUNTAIN IN STOCKHOLM

By Sigurd Fischer



"Gods Created by the Norse in Their Own Image"

**For the First Time a Definitive
Translation of Scandinavian Tales**

THE first truly definitive, complete translation into English of that great collection of ancient Scandinavian tales of gods and heroes which has been known for centuries as the *Poetic Edda* or the *Elder Edda*.

The *Voluspo*, which is both the Norse story of creation and the prophecy of the ultimate catastrophe that is to overwhelm the universe, is one of the most remarkable utterances in all literature. To what degree these *Lays of the Gods* might properly be termed the Bible of the Northern Pagans it would be folly to conjecture; but no one reading *Hovamol* can doubt but that its ethical teachings were regarded as a guide to conduct, as there can be little doubt but that the creation story of the *Voluspo* lent its sombre coloring to Norse life and thought."

PERCY HUTCHINSON in *The New York Times*.

□ □ □

"It is a pleasure to record that in the delightful volume issued by the American-Scandinavian Foundation, Mr. Henry Adams Bellows has satisfied in a masterly way the want which the general reader and the scholar alike have so long felt. He has given us a rendering of the entire *Poetic Edda* in as good an imitation of the original metres as could well be expected; he has been faithful to the often difficult texts; he has transmuted the vigorous imagery and the dramatic force of the Old Norse into modern English so extremely well that no one hereafter can have an excuse for remaining ignorant of one of the most interesting collections of verse that have ever been put together. I see no reason why this work should be superseded in our time."

GORDON HALL GEROULD in *The New York Evening Post*.

□ □ □

The POETIC EDDA

Published and Sold by

THE AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN FOUNDATION

25 West 45th Street, New York City

624 pages

\$4.00

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS NUMBER OF THE REVIEW

SIGURD FISCHER's artistic camera again contributes the cover design of the REVIEW. He has invested Molin's Fountain with a fairy-like atmosphere. JOHAN PETER MOLIN was one of Sweden's leading sculptors in the middle of the last century. Three notable works from his hand adorn Stockholm's outdoors, The Belt-duellists at Blasieholmen, Charles XII in Kungsträdgården, and the Fountain in the same park. Of the last, which was cast in bronze and raised in 1873, Carl G. Laurin writes in *Scandinavian Art*: "With its bold elevation and mighty sweep of form, it makes a fine impression, especially when seen against a blue summer sky with the water spurting over the coquettish edge. It is a fine impulse that leads men to adorn public places with an artistically formed fountain, which in the midst of the din and the noise reminds us of the peace and harmony of beauty, itself a treasure of beauty which every citizen may proudly call his own."

ERIK RINDOM, in addition to his literary work, is a teacher, and as such can speak with particular insight of the influence on Danish educational life exercised by Professor Höffding, whom he counts among his personal friends. Chief among his writings are *Harald Höffding*, published in 1913, and *Conversations with Höffding*, published in 1918. The eighty-first birthday of the venerable philosopher was recently celebrated by his admirers in Denmark.

HOWARD MINGOS was one of the American writers who visited Sweden at the time of the Göteborg Exhibition. Among the numerous sympathetic articles on Swedish men and events that have come from his hand is a

sketch of Archbishop Söderblom that appeared in the *New York Times* and attracted much attention.

GEORGE M. PRIEST has been on the faculty of Princeton University since 1895, since 1912 as professor of Germanic languages. He has published among other things a history of German literature. Professor Priest's enthusiasm for the Icelandic sagas will be seen from his account of his recent visit to the saga island. As a guide to the treasures of Old Norse literature he will be remembered gratefully by students who while at Princeton have done research work in that field.

MARTHA OSTENSO contributed a group of poems to our April number last year. She comes again with the spring. Miss Ostenso was born in Bergen and has studied at the University of Manitoba. A book of her poems will soon be published by Thomas Seltzer of New York.

Captain THOR IVERSEN contributed to our October number last year an article on Spitsbergen as the Happy Hunting Ground of Nations, in which he told of the past exploitation of the animal life in far-northern waters. To-day he carries the story down to date and presents in sober and authoritative fashion the importance of Spitsbergen as a coal-producing land. Almost every week newspapers from Norway tell of some Norwegian activity in those latitudes. With the recognition of Norway's rights by Russia, as related in the Current Events page to-day, the last obstacle to complete sovereignty is removed, and it is probable that within a very short time Spitsbergen, the old Svalbard or "cold coast" of the sagas, will pass formally under Norwegian rule.



Photograph by Elfelt

HARALD HÖFFDING
Born in Copenhagen, March 11, 1843

THE AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN REVIEW

VOLUME XII

APRIL, 1924

NUMBER 4

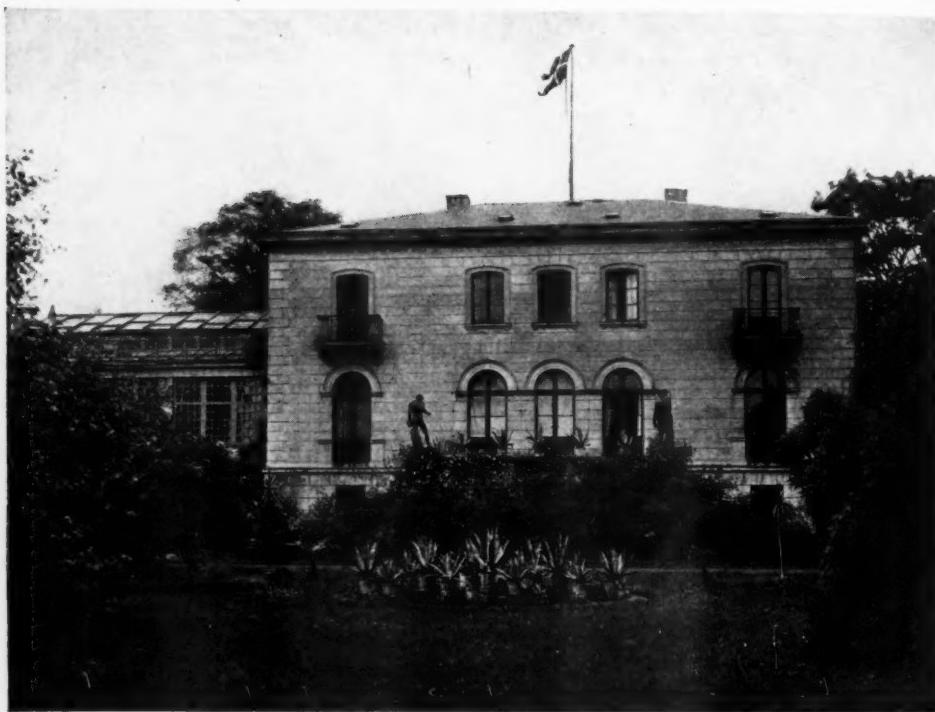
How Denmark Honors a Philosopher

By ERIK RINDOM

WHEN Harald Höffding completed his eightieth year last spring, his countrymen seized with eagerness the opportunity to pay homage to the venerable and much loved scholar, thinker, and teacher. It is significant that the University, wishing to honor one who was at once her distinguished son and her faithful servant, requested that he himself deliver a lecture in the festival hall, as it was impossible to find any one else who could lend the same distinction to the occasion; and the octogenarian lecturer made it an event that will never be forgotten.

It is no easy matter to put into a few words the qualities that constitute Höffding's greatness or to define what it is that has made him of paramount importance to Denmark's youth and Denmark's intellectual development for half a century. Perhaps we may say that it lies in his rare humanity even more than in his great intellect. His life has abounded more in inner experience than in outward events. It would seem that many diverse and even mutually antagonistic traits have struggled for mastery in his mind and character, and it is through spiritual conflict that he has attained to the harmony which now radiates from his rich and distinguished personality. Profound doubt and a still more profound faith have warred in his nature and have helped to give him his deep understanding of all things human, so that he has become what every one who is charged with the guidance of youth would wish to be—a sympathetic counsellor in spiritual matters.

He is no propagandist, and those who follow him have not the character of an army, scarcely even of a party. His espousal of any cause has usually in it more quiet warmth than vehemence. He himself prefers to work without blowing of trumpets, and he is more concerned with the quality than the quantity of his following. He never



THE CARLSBERG MANSION, VIEWED FROM THE GARDEN

tries to dazzle his pupils with his own brilliance, but leads them to reflection and self-knowledge. Hence his influence has been more intensive than widely diffused, and yet there exists in Denmark a spiritual fraternity, consisting of men and women who, however widely they differ in the circumstances of their lives and even in their opinions, have this in common that they have learned their life-wisdom from Höffding. Like their master, they prefer to remain unnoticed by the crowd, but they are conscious that his ideas have influenced them profoundly, even decisively.

A more comprehensive intellect than Höffding's it would be hard to find in Denmark. He has never shut himself up in his philosophy as in a cell, but with ever fresh interest he has thrown himself into various fields of scholarship. He has been absorbed in literature and has been keenly alive to the pulsations of contemporary thought. Of him it can truly be said that nothing of what is human he has counted foreign to himself. With his combination of versatility and thoroughness, he has been an ideal teacher for students in all departments of the University.

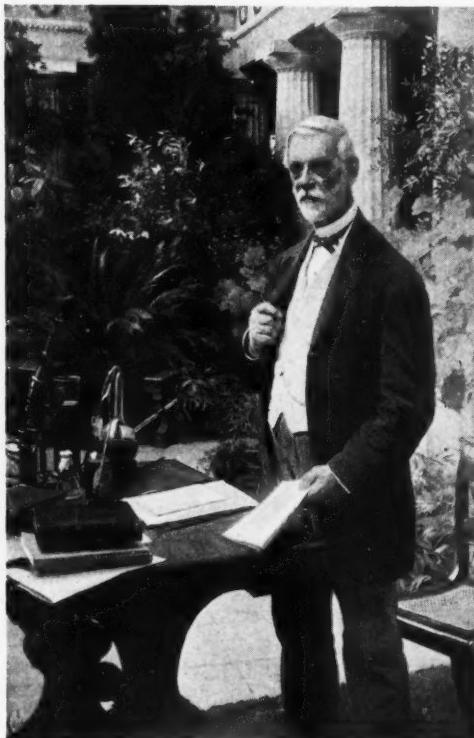
His own development was greatly influenced by his great countryman, Søren Kierkegaard, and also by the French and English positivists. In fact he has the distinction of having introduced the latter

into Denmark, where up to that time German philosophy held absolute sway, as it had done for centuries.

In the wide span of his production, the following five works may be regarded as the basic pillars: *Outlines of Psychology*, *Ethics*, *A History of Philosophy*, *The Philosophy of Religion*, and *Human Thought*. The most adequate conception of his personality can perhaps be gained from a study of *The Philosophy of Religion* taken in conjunction with *The Great Humor*. His *Leading Ideas in the Nineteenth Century*, published only a few years ago, bear evidence of faculties unimpaired by age.

It would be impossible within the compass of this article to give an adequate statement of Höffding's philosophy. For the ordinary reader the most popular and easily accessible presentment of his views may perhaps be found in two series of lectures which he delivered in the universities of Norway and Finland about ten years ago and which have been published under the titles *The Principle of Personality in Philosophy* and *Spiritual Culture*. The theory of personality which he vindicates is that every individual should be considered not merely as a link in the whole but as an end in himself. The two series of lectures throw light on various aspects of this theory, and taken together they outline a philosophic principle which is in the highest degree characteristic of Höffding and which stands in the most intimate relation with his reverence for individualities.

More than half of Höffding's long life has been devoted to his work as teacher of the younger generation at the University of Copenhagen. But while he has been leading the quiet life of a professor, his books have been translated into many languages and, together with his lectures, have directed the trend of modern thought not only in Denmark but in many other lands. Honors of various kinds have come to him at home and abroad. One of these is so unique that it deserves to be described more fully. I refer to the bestowal on him of a life tenure in the splen-



J. C. JACOBSEN, FROM A PAINTING BY
AUGUST JERNDORFF



THE DINING-ROOM AT CARLSBERG

acter of the mansion and in the spirit of the man on whom it has been bestowed for life, which may well lead our thoughts to ancient Greece. There is much of the Hellenic in the first resident of the Danish prytaneum, in his sense of harmony and beauty, his zeal for knowledge, and his clarity of thought. A worthier man to fill the place could hardly have been found.

The great mansion at Carlsberg was built as a family home by the founder of the Carlsberg breweries, J. C. Jacobsen, best known to the world abroad as the creator of the Carlsberg Fund for the promotion of science. It was erected in the early 'fifties. The architect was N. S. Nebelong, but in fact the owner himself furnished the plans and designs. In particular the beautiful conservatory and the heating and ventilating apparatus—then a novelty—were due to his personal initiative. The most impressive room in the house is the great dining-room with its high vaulted ceiling, its galleries supported by columns from the Erechtheum, and its masterpieces by Thorvaldsen and Bissen. Pompeian designs in rich colors ornament the walls, and Pompeii is the name of the beautiful Greek colonnaded court which the owner added to his "fairy palace"—as it was often called—at a later date.

For half a century this fine patrician home was the gathering place of many of the most famous men in Denmark, men distinguished in art, letters, science, or statesmanship. Hans Christian Andersen

did mansion at Carlsberg, set aside by the Jacobsen family as a free residence for an eminent citizen of Denmark.

In ancient Greece, as we know, it was the custom to honor highly deserving citizens by allowing them to eat at public expense in the town hall, the prytaneum. The Carlsberg mansion in some ways calls to mind the prytaneum of the Greeks, though with a difference. In the present case it is not the State, but a private individual, a Mæcenas, who has honored an eminent scholar, and Harald Höffding is not only a guest, but host and master at Carlsberg. Nevertheless there is much both in the stately and noble char-



HARALD HÖFFDING AS A YOUNG MAN,
TAKEN ABOUT 1865

of the founder was built. He took great pleasure in collecting and setting out there rare flowers and shrubs. Among those who saw Carlsberg rise, building after building, and who watched the growth of the "fairy garden," was a little boy who spent his summer holidays on a farm at Valby, a suburb of Copenhagen. The boy was Harald Höffding.

Thirty years later, Höffding, then a lecturer at the University, met J. C. Jacobsen at the home of the philosopher Rasmus Nielsen, to whose chair the younger man afterwards succeeded. Still another thirty years passed. Carl Jacobsen was gathered to his fathers, and the last wish of his parents regarding

was among those who frequented the Jacobsen home, and sometimes he read his fairy tales aloud in the garden to the other guests. In 1887 J. C. Jacobsen died during a sojourn in Rome, and after his death his widow lived alone for many years in the great house. From her it passed to their son, Carl Jacobsen, a man who in his day did as much for art as his father had done for science. Carl Jacobsen, however, used the mansion of his parents only occasionally for entertaining on a large scale, and it was understood that after his death it should be set aside as the residence for life of "a man who had been of eminent service to his country."

As the first man to be thus honored Harald Höffding was chosen.

The wonderful gardens at Carlsberg were begun a few years before the home

They were laid out according to his own plans, and he took great pleasure in collecting and setting out there rare flowers and shrubs. Among those who saw Carlsberg rise, building



PROFESSOR HÖFFDING WITH HIS GRANDCHILDREN, ON THE TERRACE AT CARLSBERG

their old home was fulfilled. One evening in the spring of 1914 the members of the Royal Society of Sciences dropped their ballots with the name of the man who had been nominated by the directors of the Carlsberg fund for residence in the Jacobsen mansion. The ballots all bore the name of Harald Höffding.

Sweden Again Looks to the East

By HOWARD MINGOS

HIStory is repeating itself in Sweden, which is devoting considerable time and energy toward strengthening trade relations with the eastern neighbors. Throughout Finland, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, and Russia the Swedes are retracing the steps of their viking ancestors who blazed the first commercial trails throughout the East more than a thousand years ago.

While the Norwegian and Danish vikings were carrying on in western Europe and the British Isles, the Swedish vikings for the most part were pushing eastward. They settled Finland and moved against many of the Baltic ports. Others went into Russia. It was Rurik the Swede and his enlisted sea warriors who founded the Russian empire in the ninth century. Their descendants ruled Russia for nearly 700 years. Other vikings from the East coast of Sweden took their boats up and down the Russian rivers on wild forays or missions of peaceful trade. They established a foothold there while other peoples in Europe were fighting among themselves—to which a historical parallel may be found in the situation to-day.

The viking ships plied between West and East bearing woolens, scarlet cloths, and weapons which were exchanged for precious metals and stones, spices, and fruits from Persia and India. Swedish traders went far down the Volga and into the Caspian and Black seas. For centuries they waged a constant struggle against the traders from the coast towns of north Europe which had formed the Hanseatic League and had set out to monopolize northern trade.

The Swedes were firmly entrenched in Russia, however, and it required a strange combination of circumstances to drive them out. Almost a hundred years before Columbus reached America, Tamerlane and his Mongolian hordes swept through Russia and destroyed Astrakhan where the Volga flows into the Caspian. That was a heavy blow to the traders of northern Europe, the Asiatic domination of

their trade channels. Years later the English found an easier means of reaching the East by way of the Cape of Good Hope, and western trade followed the new route. International trade languished as far as Sweden was concerned until the middle of the sixteenth century when Gustavus Vasa fought the Hanseatic League and broke its hold on the Baltic trade. From the beginning of the next century until 1631 the great Gustavus Adolphus, through successive wars and many advantageous treaties, made Sweden mistress of the entire east coast of the Baltic, which became known as a "Swedish inland sea."

Charles X established that power more firmly by his victories against Russia in 1650; and Charles XII lost it utterly by his efforts during the first ten years of the eighteenth century to unite Poland, Prussia, Turkey, and Ukraine against the Asiatic Russians. The failure of his campaign in 1709 left Russia free to dominate the Baltic east coast. Russia took Finland from Sweden a hundred years later. The increasing strength of the maritime nations in the west precluded any possibility of a smaller country regaining dominant powers. Still, nothing could deprive Sweden of her geographical advantages.

From 1850 until the World War about 90 per cent of the Swedish importing and almost as much of her exporting was carried on by way of the ports of London and Hamburg, a second-class system with England and Germany as middlemen. During the war, however, all of Sweden's trade passed into her own hands.

In 1919 her commercial missionaries were setting out through all the Baltic countries, Finland, Estonia, Poland, Latvia and thence into Soviet Russia. While the fire that had ravaged Europe still smoldered, young Swedish agents were proceeding over the age-old trails. The first year after the war Sweden sold products to the Bolshevik country of Russia aggregating in value more than seventeen million kronor.

To-day her commercial background is unexcelled, for she has had no wars for more than a hundred years. Her people have long since turned their swords into ploughshares. A third of the population is engaged in industrial pursuits. An eighth of the people are in trade or transport. Sweden's natural resources in iron, timber, and water power, moreover, provide her with an ideal background from which to work for Baltic trade supremacy. Her hydro-electric facilities have enabled the people to prepare for trade expansion beyond their borders.

The people of the other Baltic States desire agricultural and other implements. In a majority of the countries the farms radiate out from the homes in such a manner that dozens of farm-houses are grouped together in a community. For that reason it is possible to establish electrification on an economical basis.

Swedish industries have learned what these people need, because

they have similar climatic conditions at home; and farming is done in much the same manner throughout north and central Europe. The Swedish General Electric Company two years ago nearly lost its market because of the collapse in foreign exchange; but it continued to manufacture huge quantities of finished products, and can now supply everything electrical immediately, from cables to household equipment. It has branches in all the principal cities and a factory in Jaroslav, Russia, on the River Volga.

All the iron companies have exclusive agencies in the Baltic cities and are preparing to extend credit to neighboring customers, on the grounds that they must increase foreign trade at all costs in order to keep the young people from emigrating to the Western World, and also to provide means for developing the national resources. Sweden must have an outlet for her surplus, which is always present. Her small population cannot use the output from normal production. In some instances little more than 10 per cent can be used at home.

Before the war Germany supplied a large third of Sweden's imports, the United Kingdom a fourth. Now the United States supplies a third of her total imports, a significant fact in that it makes Sweden virtually a middleman between the United States and the Baltic States. Russia also enters there, for within the last twelve months scores of purchasing agents have been placed under contract to act as go-betweens in American-Russian trade. It is a fact that these agents are able to guarantee payment, something which the American operating from this side of the Atlantic seems unable to do. That is, Americans have been rather shy of Baltic and Russian trade because they had no means of collecting. The Swedes have taken advantage of that situation.

The average Swede can speak two or three languages other than his own. If he goes anywhere outside his own country, he must speak the other fellow's tongue. It is easy for a Swede to make his way through the other countries of north Europe. For some unknown reason he has a method of extracting payment from the Russians. And there exists a remarkable feeling of trust and confidence between the two nationalities. I have seen Russian delegates in Sweden, apparently very much at home, transacting millions of dollars worth of business without there arising a single question of payment. It was taken as a matter of course that Russian money would be deposited in Swedish banks to cover the full amount of the order.

Both England and France have had trade delegations in Sweden arranging credits and appointing forwarding agents. So, too, the trade delegations from every Baltic State. They come to Sweden, where inland lakes and waterways afford easy and therefore reason-

done
The
st its
nued
now
ehold
ctory

Baltic
mers,
ts in
western
ional
ch is
from
cent

den's
sup-
shakes
l the
ewelve
tract
that
n the
le to
ussian
have

than
must
ake his
some
n the
confi-
gates
ns of
on of
money
of the

veden
o, the
eden,
ason-

ably cheap shipping facilities, without undergoing the expense of transhipping at the coast.

To-day new locomotives, flying machines, rails, manufactured wood products and machinery such as turbines, generators, lathes, and engines are entering Russia from Sweden or through the medium of Swedish forwarding agents. You will find in Sweden hundreds of concerns which act as intermediaries between other nationals and the Russians. They do the selling and pay for the goods on delivery, not in Russia but at one of the free ports in Sweden.

A fact which seems to have been overlooked on this side of the Atlantic is very much in evidence in north Europe. The collapse of Germany commercially disrupted the economic machinery of all the Scandinavian countries and prevented or at least handicapped the establishment of domestic industry and commerce in the new Baltic states. There are populations aggregating some fifty millions of persons, all energetic, more or less, and anxious to build up their own countries on a foundation as modern and enduring as possible. Sweden's free ports seem to have been created for that very purpose.

At Göteborg shipping tonnage doubled between 1917 and 1922. There the largest drydock in Scandinavia is being enlarged to admit the greatest vessels afloat. The 175,000 square feet of storage space at the free port is constantly crowded with "free goods" awaiting transhipment to neighboring ports. At Malmö on the Sound where 60,000 ships either pass or stop each year as they enter or leave the Baltic, \$2,000,000 was spent recently dredging the harbor so that it would accommodate increased traffic into its free port. Hundreds of vessels put in at the free port in Stockholm, which is now being enlarged to permit double the present business. It is now crowded to capacity. Ships enter the free ports from practically every port on earth, and much of their cargoes are destined for the Baltic and Russian trade.

Live stock shipments from Sweden across the Baltic have increased rapidly of late. Telephone systems, optical instruments, clothing made from cloth bought in England, rubber goods and copper, motor cars and motor cycles from the United States, glassware made at home, matches, wickless petroleum stoves, and toilet articles—these are only a few of the things that Sweden is selling to the neighbors. The good will toward Sweden's traders is so noticeably prevalent throughout the North that it is a matter of comment among travelers. There are many reasons.

Some 20,000 Swedish sailors learned during the war that neutrality meant straddling in no mean degree. They learned to enter other ports and encounter all sorts of suspicion. They were suspected of friendliness toward either the Central Powers or England. Meanwhile, they were constantly making friends with the peoples of the

Baltic States. Sweden to them was an established neutral country which seemed to be everybody's friend, within limits.

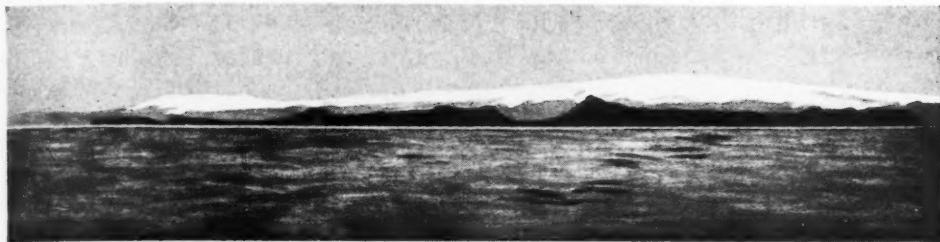
For one thing she has not been niggardly in her charities. She has sent doctors and nurses into the farflung provinces of Russia, and she has fed the children of a dozen nations, even going as far South as Austria in her work of relieving the victims of war and famine. Shiploads of children have been brought into Sweden and nourished back to health and strength. You may imagine the impression made on their parents and relatives.

It matters little how affairs in Central Europe may be shaped during the next few years. Sweden has regained at least a part of the maritime trade she had lost. In the minds of her industrialists and merchants there is small chance that it will be taken away. She is entrenching her selling forces now, and aims to be ready for the stiff competition to follow after the larger countries have recovered from the present chaotic situation.

When the new Labor government in England granted recognition to Soviet Russia, instead of British merchants saying that it spelled better times for trade and commerce, they gave long interviews saying that under the present Soviet government, the Anglo-Saxon world cannot hope to deal directly with Russia. It was pointed out that different methods lead only to misunderstandings, bickering, and ultimate distrust. Further, it was stated that probably England would still have to depend on her trade alliances and forwarding agents in Scandianavia, because they were evidently better equipped to carry on satisfactory business dealings with the peoples in the East.

In that Sweden is confident that she will have her full share. Her shipping is now being carried on with Swedish bottoms, and her ships ply between all countries. Her harbor facilities and her advantage in location are calculated to be of tremendous help. Her raw resources are unexcelled. Her people are trained for their part. Sweden is no longer a barren country as it was under the crude civilization of the Viking Age, when the Western nations were able to wrest her trade away from her because those at home had little or nothing that other people wanted. They were simply mediums of barter and exchange. To-day they are both. They have much that is absolutely necessary to neighboring countries; and that which they cannot supply from their own resources, they are able to bring in from abroad, for other nations are more than willing to let them do it.

Sweden again looks toward the East.



GLACIERS AT CAPE PORTLAND, ON THE SOUTH COAST OF ICELAND, FROM A PAINTING BY
JOHS. KLEIN

Iceland

By GEORGE M. PRIEST

If the traveller sailing from Europe luckily draws near to Iceland by day, he sees first a long low line of white above the dark edge of the horizon. Gradually the line of white lifts, and now, seen to be resting on a lofty rolling plateau, it becomes a vast bed, not of clouds, but of snow and ice, the glaciers of Iceland, "the grandest, greatest glacier field in any inhabited area of equal size on the globe." Imagine this first sight of Iceland as stunning and magnificent as one will—no anticipation can rob the traveller of an unforgettable thrill.

Scenically, Iceland—an island a little smaller than the state of Pennsylvania and four-fifths of it quite uninhabitable—consists of three main areas. On the northern and eastern sides the mountain peaks and the glaciers have a height of 6,000 feet and more. Here rises Mt. Hekla in all its glory. Here, too, the narrow fjords cut in between the towering walls of basalt. In this region the explorer can often find views of overpowering beauty and grandeur. In the interior of the island lie the vast beds of lava, looking like seas of molten iron suddenly congealed, desolate and cruel beyond words. Descending from the glacier fields or returning from the lava beds, the traveller finds the green lowlands on the southern and western coasts of the island.

Of color nature offers little. Wild flowers exist, but even in mid-summer they seem never enough to paint a landscape. The eye that seeks color must content itself by day with the green of the lowlands, the snow white on the highlands, and the purple shadows in the valleys. But as the day wanes and the sun approaches its setting, the painter comes into his own. The exquisite shades of gray and blue and pink that emerge in the summer sunsets of Iceland can hardly be found outside of that latitude. At sunset the sky over Iceland is a radiant dome of mother-of-pearl.

Almost all of the 95,000 people of Iceland live in hamlets and

towns ranging in number of inhabitants from a few score or hundreds up to 2,000, in the one case of Reykjavík, the capital, reaching about 18,000. All of the larger settlements lie on or near the coast. To say—which is true—that all of the houses except a few stone structures are built of boards covered with corrugated iron suggests the dreary red mining towns of Wyoming and Montana, but the Icelanders happily use many cheerful colors in painting their houses. The houses scattered over the lowlands sometimes have the iron sheathing, sometimes not; they often have rude additions resembling the shelters for the beasts which are usually dug out of a hillside and roofed over with sod.



GIRL IN ICELANDIC COSTUME

walked in a garden; never seen a grape-vine or plucked fruit from a tree.

A great variety of interests is also lacking. Occupations, for instance, are comparatively few in number. There are no coal-mines; all the coal that Iceland burns must be imported, and the fuel supply is eking out with peat, often with dried sheep's dung in remote farmsteads. There are no forests and hence no lumber camps and saw-mills; Norway supplies the timber. Nor can men make a living by agriculture, because Iceland can produce only the few things which a very thin soil can bring forth: short grass, wisps of hay so elusive they must be transported in closely-meshed nets, thin watery potatoes. The soil produces fodder for horses and cattle but nothing of consequence for human beings. And large manufactories are not yet established. Before 1914 tourists were spending more and more

Not at the farmsteads only but in the hamlets and towns as well, the foreigner is often oppressed by a sense of the limitations of the life which the natives lead. The telegraph and telephone and wireless have come to Iceland within the memory of living men, also automobiles; there are over two hundred cars in Reykjavík alone, albeit four-fifths of them Fords. But untraveled Icelanders have never seen drama performed except by amateurs; never heard an opera or an orchestral concert; never seen a great masterpiece of art. They have never seen a train or a trolley car. Above all, they have never set eyes on a tree, only on a sapling in some very sheltered nook; never

money in Iceland, but the war killed the tourist business. In the summer of 1922 it was impossible to find a book of Icelandic views in any store in Reykjavík. Capital guides could still be found, Ögmundur Sigurðsson, Stefán Stefánsson, and Ari Eyjólfsson, but not one of these men could make a living merely as a guide, so thin had become the stream of tourists.

Men earn their living by fishing, by sheep-raising—there are over 300,000 head of sheep on the island—by distributing all the articles of food that Iceland must import, and by providing for each other's needs in stores and schools and other common phases of life. The people live on their cattle, dairy and poultry products, fish, and imported foodstuffs. The food is good, especially the milk and butter and eggs, but foreigners who are dependent on fresh fruits and vegetables will suffer deprivation or great drains on their purses.

Although life in Iceland lacks variety and color, although it lacks diversity of interests, it enjoys a great advantage over other countries in being singularly free from many problems that beset more diversified communities. There no racial questions are seeking a solution: no Japanese question, no immigration question at all, no negro question. In reply to a matter-of-course inquiry about the relative number of Jews, an Icelander smiled and answered: "Well, I heard not long ago that there is a Jew over in Reykjavík!" Germanic and Celtic in origin and now thoroughly fused together, the Icelanders have become a rarely homogeneous people.

This impression of homogeneity is deepened through observation in regard to class distinctions. The casual foreigner sees in public places few evidences either of higher and lower classes or of great wealth and great poverty; he sees only one comprehensive middle class. During a long opportunity to observe the richest man in Iceland among people of many kinds, no sign appeared of arrogance or condescension on his part or of flattery or "boot-licking" on the part of others.

Nor is the country split on any religious question. The Lutheran Church claims over 90 percent of the population among its adherents, and the remaining 10 percent—mostly Roman Catholics and non-believers—are completely overshadowed. And, thanks largely to the Lutheran Church, illiteracy is hardly known, because the Church, in effect, enforces the confirmation of all children of sound mind and requires at confirmation ability to read and write.

For many years the relations between Iceland and Denmark formed a very disturbing element in Icelandic life, but that problem was solved in 1918, when Denmark relinquished its claim to authority over the people of the island. Iceland is a free and independent nation. It remains in a "personal union" with Denmark, acknowledging the Danish king as its own; it also accepts the Danish ministers in foreign



FORDING THE MÝVATN



ALMANNAGJÁ



A STREET IN REYKJAVÍK



A MILKING SCENE

countries as its own representatives, largely as a measure of economy. But neither the Danish king nor the Danish Parliament has any jurisdiction in Iceland, and Iceland sends no representatives to the Parliament in Copenhagen. Iceland has its own Parliament, and its Prime Minister and his Cabinet continue in office or fall as the Icelandic Parliament wills. Prohibition was established in 1912, successfully, many Icelanders thought; others considered prohibition a failure.

In either case — and not on account of the success or failure of prohibition — the sale of light wine and beer became legal again on the first of July, 1922; Spain had threatened to put a heavy import duty on Icelandic cod and herring if Iceland continued to bar Spanish wines, and in order to retain its best customer for its chief

industry, Iceland modified its prohibition law.

For obvious reasons—such as the inadequate means of communication and the small number of inhabitants—public amusements are few in Iceland. Movies flourish—Charlie Chaplin is a great favorite there—but at present a tourist looking for amusements in towns will soon exhaust the possibilities. Soccer and tennis, the leading sports, are just beginning to gain a foothold. Salmon fishing is an industry rather than a sport, and big game is scarce, to the surprise and chagrin of many foreigners. Stefán Stefánsson and his friends were much amused last spring by the receipt of a letter from an Englishman who requested



A TYPICAL OLD FARM



THE THINGVELLIR PLAIN



Photo by Captain Daniel Bruun

DIMONSVAAg, THE HOME OF ERIC THE RED, FROM WHICH HE SAILED AS AN OUTLAW TO GREENLAND

that some district be leased for him where he alone might shoot all the polar bear!

The Icelander finds his chief recreations within his own four walls or in the homes of his friends. These homes often consist of many rooms, but the rooms are small, and the houses are small. Low-ceilinged, often crowded with tables and chairs and cabinets, over-decorated with ornaments and pictures, especially with photographs, Icelandic interiors often have the stuffiness of old-fashioned museums. They are made attractive by handsome old pieces of furniture, carved chests, for example, brought from overseas, which one sees now and then even in remote places.

Icelandic hospitality is proverbial or should be. Along main traveled roads where strangers often turn in at farmsteads for food and shelter, and more and more frequently in recent decades, the natives have been forced by economic necessity to accept money for board and lodging. But an introduction by a friend of the family seems to entitle the new-comer to anything in the house, and he is urged to consume vast quantities of *skyr* (a kind of clabber) and milk and coffee and cakes. Back in the interior where passers-by are rare, money for food and shelter is still not accepted. Here it is usually not even proffered, as everybody knows that people of the interior consider a house disgraced if it accepts money for bed and board.

However narrow and limited Icelandic life may appear in many respects, it offers many attractions indoors. The Icelanders read a great deal, and even the simplest home has its shelf or shelves of books. It is said that on the long winter evenings when the women are weaving or sewing and the men are mending their implements, some member of the family will sit by and read to the group one of the old Icelandic sagas. Musical instruments of one kind or another are also well-nigh universal. Music and reading, which the Icelander seems to be able to absorb indefinitely, make up the entertainment very often when friends gather together. But besides these and other forms of recreation which we, too, indulge in, the Icelanders carry on many games that we do not know. For example, they still improvise what may, generously speaking, be called poetry, what is at least rimed verse. Some member of a group will make up a series of rimes on the spur of the moment, stopping with some unrimed word. His neighbor must then complete the rime, and after continuing to improvise rimes for a while, he, too, must leave a rime-word hanging in mid-air. And thus it goes around the circle. Many Icelanders are said to possess great skill in this game. It is estimated that at least one-third of the inhabitants of the island can and do write rimes, if not poetry.

The amount and quality of Icelandic culture to-day amaze the foreigner more and more the longer and the better he becomes

acquainted with it. In a land of no illiterates it is not surprising to find a highly developed educational system; this system culminates in the University of Reykjavík (an institution with the traditional four faculties) and in the public library of 108,000 volumes and 3,000 manuscripts. Amazement comes when the foreigner begins to realize and appreciate what the Icelanders have achieved in recent years in music, in painting and sculpture, and, especially, in literature. Iceland speaks with well-merited pride of the musical compositions of Sigfús Einarsson, of the splendid and exquisite canvases by Asgrímur Jónsson and Kjarval, of the noble lines of Einar Jónsson's sculptures. In literature one hardly ventures to record a name, so many deserve mention. Jóhann Sigurjónsson became more widely known in this country in 1921 when his *Eyvind of the Hills* was produced at the Greenwich Village Theatre in New York, but probably few Americans realize that Sigurjónsson's dramas can be matched (or surpassed, in the opinion of some Icelanders) by the psalms of Hallgrímur Pjetursson, by the lyric poetry of Grímur Thomsen, by the novels of Jón Thoroddsen as well as by the works of other Icelandic poets, dramatists, and novelists. Icelanders count indeed so many writers, they often complain of the number of men and women who are devoting themselves to literature; they say that many writers should turn to other occupations and assist in the advancement of their country in other ways. The development of a first-rate critic would at least do modern Icelandic literature no harm. Up to the present the island has never produced a critic of even second-rate quality, which may explain both the artificiality and lack of form which characterize the country's medieval poetry and sagas, and the straining after effect in some of its modern stories and dramas.

Iceland is not so far away from Europe, its people have not traveled so little, that Icelandic culture has not been deeply influenced by Europe. Iceland has taken over, above all, the form in which Europe expresses itself and its ideals. But the foreigner is repeatedly surprised to see how the Icelander uses only the moulds and not the contents of European literary art. In other words, the great achievements of Icelandic culture seem to be almost without exception native home-grown products, Icelandic in theme, in spirit, and in meaning. Whether one thinks of the Icelandic scenes in the paintings that adorn the walls of the Parliament House in Reykjavík, or of Jónsson's statue, The Outlaw, or of *Eyvind of the Hills*, the same impression remains. It is Iceland that Iceland's sons and daughters are trying to express. Thus they are carrying on the traditions of the past when saga-writers set down the splendid (and un-splendid) deeds of the early settlers of the island.

When one looks around for visible traces of these early settlers, one soon finds oneself thrown back on the sagas for all but the scantiest

relics of those first inhabitants. At Borg the pastor, Mr. Friðgeirsson, can show a portion of a tooth of Skallagrím's horse and he can tell of finding rust from Skallagrím's weapons when the hero's grave was recently restored. At Thingvellir where the open-air parliament of the people was held, the visitor sees the foundation of the booth, 80 by 20 feet, which Njáll and his men used to occupy; these foundations and those of other booths are easily discovered, also a part of the wall where men were stopped and relieved of weapons before entering the parliament enclosure. Back of the farmstead at Hlíðarendi the ruins of a foundation are said to mark the site of Gunnar's house, farther up the hill a large regular mound may be Gunnar's burial-place. But these are perhaps all the relics of the heroic age.

At the same time many reminders of other kinds—names, customs, superstitions—still survive. Visitors to Iceland who are familiar with the sagas will be delighted to hear in every-day talk such place-names as Borg and Hlíðarendi and Thingvellir. The use of family names is spreading, but the old custom of designating a child as the son or daughter of the father, without any family name, still prevails generally. Ögmundur Sigurðsson has a son who is known as Thorvaldur Ögmundsson, and the daughter of a certain Ólafur conducts an attractive shop behind a sign bearing her name, Halldóra Ólafsdóttir. As illustrations of Icelandic superstitions two come to mind. It is said that travellers seeking shelter at a farmstead must always knock three times; otherwise the rapping, being out of the ordinary, will be considered uncanny, and the door will not be opened. According to the local tradition the entrance to "the church of the open door" on an island in the outer harbor of Reykjavík must never be closed, otherwise an accident with loss of life is sure to take place; only a few years ago when the door was closed during a great storm, a vessel sank directly opposite the door with 26 men on board! This superstition will survive for many years.

Precious as these reminders of Iceland's past may be and are, it is nevertheless the scenic backgrounds that stir the saga-reader most. At Isafjörður the sagas of the buccaneers acquire a new meaning. At Mosfell one understands why Egill chose that peaceful valley as the home of his declining years. On the road to Hlíðarendi, though the journey be made in an automobile on a road that is always fair and often excellent, one can see with a little imagination the perils of mountains and rivers that lurked in the way of Njáll and his men. And then, most impressive of all, there is Thingvellir, a wild and lonely spot, the meeting-place of the law-makers and law-givers of Iceland, where, certainly as early as 930, men came together from all over Iceland, free men, their own guardians of their liberty and independence, assembling to settle their disputes, to make laws, and to execute them.

A few hours at Thingvellir alone reward abundantly a long, long journey across the seas.

It is not difficult in Iceland to revive the past in the present. It is very difficult to visualize the future of the island in any terms except those of far more gradual change and progress than usual in other countries. Countless generations must come and go before the ordinary processes of nature can render the soil largely productive of anything but grass and hay. Iceland must remain well-nigh forever dependent on other countries for indispensable articles of food. Iceland's economic hope and goal must lie in other directions: in the further development of its fishing industries, in making it possible through new roads for men and cattle to live and increase farther inland, and in freeing the island from the necessity of importing fuel by utilizing the electricity in rivers and waterfalls for many ordinary purposes of every-day life. Great tasks are these, but the Icelander lacks no quality necessary to the accomplishment of them. That countless generations will not come and go before he accomplishes them is certain.

The Tramp

By MARTHA OSTENSO

*Open wide the door—
What does it matter
That his dusty clothes
Are all a-tatter—
He carries moonlight
On his shoulder—
Open wide the door,
The night grows colder.*

*Heap the hearth fire,
Seat the stranger near.
Do not cringe, children,
There's naught to fear. . . .
Though he comes and goes
With an alien tongue
On his ragged sleeve
A thrush has sung.*

Spitsbergen

The Coal and Who Owns It

By THOR IVERSEN

I.

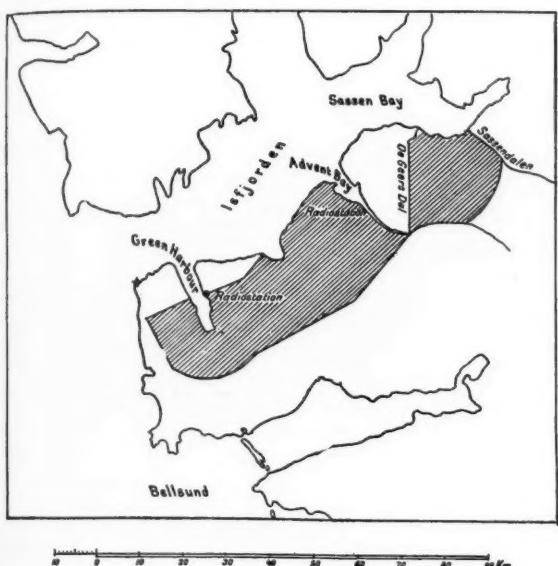
FOR three hundred years Spitsbergen has been known to have coal within its mountains as is evidenced by the names that have persisted generation after generation, such as Coal Mountain, Coal Haven, Coal Point. The early whalers and hunters undoubtedly used for fuel whatever bits of coal they found scattered about, but they certainly never attempted any serious mining of it. To be sure, about a hundred years ago, a small experimental shipment was made to Norway, but this was not followed up by further shipments until the beginning of the present century. (Two geologists reported the early shipment: Keilhau in 1827 and Robert in 1838.)

In 1900-1901 several Norwegian skippers, who were engaged in hunting, got a concession from the Norwegian Government and took over considerable coal land on West Spitsbergen. Four companies were promoted, but their financial backing was inadequate, and in 1905 all four companies sold out.

John M. Longyear, the American millionaire mine-owner, who became interested in the coal-fields when on a tourist trip to Spitsbergen, bought the holdings of the Trondhjem-Spitsbergen Coal Company, and also all the land between Advent Bay and Green Harbor, and between De Geersdal and Sasselndal. He and his friend Frederick Ayer incorporated as the Arctic Coal Company and laid out a new mining town, Longyear City, on the western shore of Advent Bay; they started mining operations and exported their first coal in 1907. English capitalists bought the Norwegian holdings on the eastern side of Advent Bay and incorporated as the Spitsbergen Coal and Trading Company; they laid out Advent City. But this mine turned out to be poorer than that at Longyear City. Company after company was promoted, but little real mining was attempted.

In 1916 the Norwegians got back into the game. The Store Norske Spitsbergen Kulkompani, generally known as "Store Norske," took over the Arctic Coal Company and three small Norwegian companies; the Norske Kulfelter bought out the Spitsbergen Coal and Trading Company.

Backed by the greatest ship-owners and business men of Norway, and financed by the leading banks, mining was started in earnest. The output increased steadily from year to year. During the nine-year period from 1907 to 1915, the total production was 150,690 tons; during the seven-year period from 1916 to 1922, the output was 819,920 tons. The first considerable output was in 1918 when four companies



MAP SHOWING THE HOLDINGS OF STORE NORSKE COMPANY

150,000 tons; *Kings Bay Kulkompani*, of King's Bay (home office, Aalesund), about 75,000 tons; the *Norske Kulfelter*, of Advent Bay (home office, Bergen), about 9,000 tons; *Spitsbergens Svenska Kol-fält*, of Braganza Bay (home office, Stockholm), about 70,000 tons; *Netherlands-Spitsbergen Company*, of Green Harbor (home office, Rotterdam), about 30,000 tons. (These export figures vary slightly from the output given for 1922 because of inclusion of some stored coal in the exports.)

As shown by the preceding paragraph, the principal coal mines of the Spitsbergen Archipelago are upon West Spitsbergen, the largest island of the group, with an area of 15,000 square miles. It has been rather well prospected, especially in the west and south. The coal found there is of carboniferous, cretaceous, and tertiary formations. The tertiary coal seams are the most valuable and are those now being so intensively mined, but the cretaceous are also very promising.

All the way south from Ice Fjord, West Spitsbergen is largely of tertiary formation. However, small tertiary fields are found elsewhere, notably at King's Bay. The total area of tertiary coal-fields is approximately 2,800 square miles.

Thorough prospectings have been made between Ice Fjord and Bell Sound (Braganza Bay). The fields here are in four strata, two tertiary and two cretaceous. The lower cretaceous seam runs about three and a half feet thick and the upper from two and a half to twelve and a half feet; fifty feet above lies the lower tertiary seam, about three feet eight inches thick, and about sixty-five feet higher up is the upper tertiary seam, from three and a half to six feet eight inches thick. At

got out 62,729 tons; the record for 1922 showed a production of 310,000 tons, of which 220,000 tons were the output of Norwegian companies.

Eleven companies were listed for 1922, six Norwegian, one Swedish, one Dutch, one Scottish, one British, and one Anglo-Russian. Of these companies, only five exported any appreciable amount of coal during the year; the *Store Norske*, of Advent Bay and Green Harbor (home office, Kristiania), about

to have
it have
ntain,
btedly
ut, but
e sure,
s made
s until
ed the

ged in
d took
panies
n 1905

r, who
Spits-
Com-
arbor,
Fred-
out a
advent
coal in
on the
n Coal
mine
after

Store
rske,"
a com-
al and

orway,
ernest.
nine-
tons;
9,920
panies



THE WIRELESS STATION AT GREEN HARBOR



TRACKS AT LONGYEAR CITY



OPERATIONS AT ADVENT BAY



SCENE AT ADVENT CITY

the western side of Advent Bay, the tertiary seam is embedded in the mountain-side about 1,000 feet above sea level. Here is mined the best coal, known to the trade as *Spitsbergen Coal*. This is a firing coal peculiarly rich in gases, of high combustible value, and grading 15 percent higher than the best English coal. A cannel coal of heavy oil-content is found at King's Bay. At Bear Island are great seams of excellent Devonian coal, practically free from gases and so of especial value for domestic uses.

The most important coal company at Spitsbergen is the Store Norske, which owns the greatest and finest fields and is blessed, besides, with excellent harbors both at Advent Bay and Green Harbor. After it had taken over the holdings of the Arctic Coal Company, it thoroughly overhauled everything at Advent Bay and installed the most efficient modern equipment for operating on a grand scale. A new mine was opened, and the yards and cranes were extended farther along the fjord, thus providing greater storage for the mined coal. There is quite a mining-town there now with good housing for three hundred fifty men, with church, hospital, community-house, bakery, cinema-theatre, offices, shops and warehouses, and a wireless station. A modern power-house has been erected where is generated all the current for lighting the little community and for running the seventy great motors of the plant.

The mines of the Store Norske are fitted out with the latest models of electrically-run locomotives, cutting machines, and cages. A cable railway, at present of about four miles and with a car capacity of 100 tons per hour, carries the coal as extracted from two mines to the loading yards. Moreover, the company has procured an American elevator of most approved design, with a storage capacity of 150,000 tons (the estimated winter production with present equipment), and with a discharge power of 4,000 tons daily. The erection of this elevator has made possible the loading of ships of 6,000 tons. The coal-fields of the Store Norske cover approximately 400 square miles; they are calculated to hold around 1,500,000,000 tons of coal.

Although the output of coal at Spitsbergen has increased so greatly year by year, the companies as yet have spun no silk for stockholders, but are still trying to solve the problem of making coal-mining in the far north a paying proposition.

In a polar country the overhead of any industry may well be so unreasonably high that the output cannot compete with that of more favored regions. At Spitsbergen the daily output during nine months of the year must be stored, and the enormous accumulation must be loaded for export during the three months of summer. Yet experts claim that the mines can be made profitable. Success depends upon modern equipment, efficient management, and production on a large scale.

Coal-mining in the far north has indeed a goodly number of difficulties with which to contend, but so has mining in warmer climes. As a rule the coal seams of Spitsbergen lie horizontally in the mountains, with very slight inclines, which makes them easier to work. The mountain crust is frozen the year round to a depth of almost 1,000 feet; consequently, the temperature of the mines is always comfortable for working. There is neither water seepage nor danger from the usual mine gases. The careful shoring of excavated passages, which elsewhere forms so expensive an item of mining, is not necessary here. The daily production of a man's labor averages high compared with other mines, which, of course, is a tremendous advantage.

Despite its severity, the climate is healthful. The air is practically free from bacteria; the carcass of an animal can lie in the open for a couple of years and show no signs of decomposition. Scurvy, the bane of early Arctic explorers, has been conquered; good dwellings, plenty of wholesome food, steady work, and some divertissement during the long dark winter are prophylactics.

The period of darkness at Spitsbergen begins on the twenty-sixth of October and lasts until the seventeenth of February. The Midnight Sun rises above the horizon on the nineteenth of April and sinks below on the twenty-fourth of August. During the summer the temperature varies from thirty-seven to fifty degrees above (*Fahrenheit*) and drops in the winter as low as forty degrees below; the mean temperature is about sixteen degrees above. Because of the dryness of the air, the low temperatures do not cause the penetrating chill that they would in more humid regions.

Most folk get quite enough of Spitsbergen in a year, and every spring sees a pretty general exodus of the population. Yet some remain contentedly year after year, and not so few old-timers land with the yearly influx of strangers.

Spitsbergen and Bear Island may now be said to be after a fashion permanently inhabited; for several years the mining population has fluctuated from 1,500 to 2,000. At Green Harbor is a powerful wireless station which was set up by the Norwegian government in 1911; there are smaller stations at other mining centres on Spitsbergen and one on Bear Island.

Since 1890 the Spitsbergen fjords have drawn excursionists during the brilliant summer days. Naturally, the World War put a temporary stop to pleasure trips, but a regular post-and-tourist service is now maintained between Norway and Spitsbergen; the steamers are all subsidized by the Norwegian government.

The Norwegians are greatly interested in meteorology, and the wireless stations have greatly facilitated the gathering and utilization of data in this vital science. To further the study, the government has erected at King's Bay a geo-physical observation laboratory,

equipped with its own wireless. Here are tabulated most carefully verified statistics as to aerology, earth-magnetism, northern light manifestations, as well as general meteorology.

Although now comparatively well populated, Spitsbergen is yet an uncertain place for tourists because of the difficulty



THE BARRACKS AT BEAR ISLAND



QUAY FOR LOADING AT BEAR ISLAND

of getting local transportation and hostelry accommodation; a advance arrangements should be made in all cases. Even during the summer, local means of transportation can not be depended on, and during the long dark winter, climatic and physical conditions prevent all intercommunication.



LANDING AT CROSS BAY

II.

Spitsbergen and Bear Island have been so long "every man's country" that individual rights in land have become badly involved. The start of mining operations made matters worse. Companies and individuals seized all available land, even plots that were almost inaccessible. Everywhere preëmption signs were seen, some properly staked, others cast aside by claim-jumpers. Many of the preëmptors have been mere casuals claiming plots of land as speculation, in blissful ignorance as to value or worthlessness.

There is as yet no statute code for the government of the Spitsbergen Archipelago, but the "law-of-custom" that has been evolved by generations of explorers and trekkers in the wild places of the earth has been generally respected. According to a Norwegian company which carries on mining, this law-of-custom, based on a proposal for a gentlemen's agreement" made in 1912 by diplomats of Norway, Sweden, and Russia, is as follows: The procedure is for the individual or company that would take up a piece of coal- or other ore-land to show preëmption by corner-stakes with attached notices designating the boundaries of the plot, with signatures of preëmptor and witness, and with the date of preëmption; notice of the preëmption must be sent immediately to the Foreign Relations Department of the country to which claimant owes allegiance; right to the land must be maintained by preëmptor or his agent living and working upon the designated land, which must not be greater in area than the claimant or his agent can hold and work properly.

According to this statement of the conditions for ownership, most of the notices put up by casuals and speculators are probably invalid, but they have nevertheless caused considerable bother and expense to those who would legitimately develop valuable holdings. The wretched confusion has caused justifiable disaffection among prospectors and capitalists and has tended to delay mining operations. A uniform law as to individual land rights has become vital, however unimportant it may have been in those earlier days of peripatetic hunting. This is why Norway has been so exigent to get the question of sovereignty settled definitely.

As early as 1871 Norway and Sweden agreed to claim Norwegian sovereignty for the Spitsbergen Archipelago and Bear Island, but negotiations with the European powers fell through. In 1907 Norway attempted to reopen negotiations; again and again she tried and failed—in 1909, 1910, 1912, 1914. The conversations in 1914 got to the point of framing a tentative draft which provided that Spitsbergen should be neutral and open to everybody; that it should be administered by an international commission of three members chosen by the governments of Norway, Sweden, and Russia; that law and order should

be maintained by an international police-force; that fishing and hunting should be free to everybody but with restrictions that would prevent in the future such wanton destruction of animal-life as had in the past almost exterminated certain species. Because of the sudden outbreak of the World War, accord was not achieved.

In 1919 Norway again laid her claim before an international commission, this time before the Peace Conference, then sitting at Versailles. A commission of one member each from Great Britain, France, Italy, and the United States was appointed to investigate the situation. A treaty was drafted and signed by accredited representatives of the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, and Norway.

Although they approved *in principle* granting Norway the sovereignty over Spitsbergen and Bear Island, several members of the Peace Conference insisted on a measure of neutrality so that nationals other than Norwegian could participate in developing and utilizing the resources of those islands in the far north.

In brief, the Spitsbergen Treaty grants Norway the sovereignty of the Spitsbergen Archipelago and Bear Island with the proviso that nationals of signatory governments have equal rights with the Norwegian in holding property, in fishing and hunting, mining and commerce; that Russian nationals have equal rights with signatory until such time as the Russian government, recognized as *de facto*, becomes a signatory; that powers not signatory be invited to become so when the treaty has been duly ratified by the original signatory governments. The Norwegian government is pledged to maintain law and order, and to formulate a code that shall clear the mining situation, notifying the signatory governments of all rules and regulations three months before putting into effect; to grant preferential treatment to any work required for the development of the islands without regard to any priority rights or concessions enjoyed by nationals, including the Norwegian; to expend the proceeds of fees, taxes, excises, and customs solely for the advantage of Spitsbergen and Bear Island, imposing only such rates as shall be necessary to provide funds for an adequate development of the islands and limiting the maximum rate on excises to 1 percent; to accord to all absolute equality as provided by the treaty.

It cannot be said that the treaty has evoked any extraordinary enthusiasm in Norway. Many are dubious as to Norway's reaping any benefit whatever in accepting the sovereignty of Spitsbergen and Bear Island upon the terms of the treaty. They would like to see a balancing of the budget there instead of financing the heavy overhead in the hope that a respectable output eventually will prove profitable. But there are also those who wish to see the treaty carried out despite the provisos that cramp the sovereignty into an almost empty honor.

Current Events U. S. A.

¶ The resignation of Edwin Denby, Secretary of the Navy in the Coolidge cabinet, as a result of the Senate oil investigation, was the immediate effect of public agitation with regard to the turning over of the naval oil reserves to private exploitation. Republican leaders were among the most insistent to have the party's campaign plans rendered unobstructed by anything that could give the opposition ground for attack. ¶ At his own suggestion William G. McAdoo, the leading candidate for the nomination of President on the Democratic ticket, appeared before the investigation committee, to account for his connection as attorney for E. L. Doheny in the interests of the latter's Mexican oil operations, for which services Mr. McAdoo received \$125,000. ¶ Desiring to know whether, in the light of the investigations, his followers wished to have him remain in the campaign, he asked that a conference be held at Chicago where it was decided that his candidacy was to be pushed vigorously in spite of criticism of Mr. McAdoo's legal connections with the Doheny interests, which, however, he had severed. ¶ The Income Tax Bill, as presented by Secretary of the Treasury Mellon and supported in all essentials by President Coolidge, continued subject for debate in Congress and out, and the political lines have been sharply drawn in both houses. ¶ Henry Ford, in an interview declared that high taxes on the rich put burdens on the poor. He was decidedly against the surtax and emphasized that those who favor high imposts advocate increase in the cost of living. ¶ In a letter addressed to the chairman of the House committee on Immigration, Secretary of State Hughes took strong exception to the pending immigration bill which would exclude Japanese from the United States. Mr. Hughes pointed out that such legislation would largely undo the work of the Washington Conference on Limitation of Armaments. ¶ Twenty of New York State's twenty-two Democrats in Congress are lined up against this immigration bill, declaring that it favors the Northern European peoples as against those of Southern Europe. The Johnson bill bases its quotas on the number of nationals of any country resident in the United States under the census of 1890 as opposed to the present basis of the 1910 census. ¶ The Policy Committee of the American Peace Award announced that the vote on the Bok plan had reached a total of 544,778 at the end of the week of February 23. Of these votes 87 per cent were for the plan. ¶ An event in the radio world was when amateurs in New York heard the program given by the British Broadcasting Company in the Hotel Savoy in London, March 18. The first speaker was William Marconi.

Norway

¶ The proposal to change the name of the Norwegian capital from Kristiania to Oslo is being violently debated in the press. Oslo was founded by Harald Haardraade, who was killed in the battle of Stamford Bridge, 1066. It was an important Norwegian centre all through the Middle Ages, and a part of the old town still exists. After a devastating fire, Christian IV took steps to rebuild farther to the west, where the centre of modern Kristiania still is, and then, in 1624, the city was given its present name. Christian IV, whose statue stands on Stortorvet in Kristiania, did much for Norway, and was no doubt the one of the Danish-Norwegian union kings whose memory is most esteemed in Norway; but the desire to change the name of the capital is a part of the movement to resurrect Norway's distant past and to forge again the connecting links between that and the present. The proposition was rejected in the City Council, with 42 votes against 42, the vote of the chairman deciding the issue in the negative. Final decision, however, rests with the Storting, and it is expected that the change will be ratified. ¶ A short time before the World War the German Emperor, in order to commemorate his cruises in the Norwegian fjords, presented to the Norwegian State two large statues representing the mythical Norwegian heroes, Fridtjof and King Bele, by the German sculptor Unger. The statues were erected at Vangsnæs on the Sognefjord, but have never been popular. A member of the local Municipal Council has submitted a proposal that the statues be sold, and the money given to the poor of Germany. The proposal has, however, been rejected by the government. ¶ The Norwegian newspapers call attention to the fact that the Norwegian flag is now floating farther south and north than that of any other country. The Norwegian whaling expedition in the *Sir James Clark Ross*, is in the Ross Sea, at a point 78.30 degrees south, while Captain Roald Amundsen's ship, the *Maud*, is lying off the New Siberian Islands. Both vessels are in constant wireless communication with Kristiania. As an example of the rapidity of wireless transmission, the newspapers state that the reply to a wireless telegram was received at Kristiania from the *Sir James Clark Ross* thirty-eight hours after the despatch of the telegram from Kristiania. ¶ An agreement regarding Norway's de jure recognition of the Soviet Government was signed at Kristiania February 15. Russia has recognized Norway's sovereignty over Spitsbergen. ¶ Professor of physics at Kristiania University, Lars Vegard, has made a sensational discovery. He claims to have ascertained that the uppermost stratum of the air consists of compact crystalline nitrogen particles, surrounding the earth as a balloon. This explains the green color of the northern light and many other phenomena which have hitherto been considered inexplicable.

Sweden

¶ The first encounter of the Trygger ministry with the Riksdag took place in the debate on the budget. The occasion went off very quietly except for the fact that the head of the former Socialist ministry, Hjalmar Branting, took exception to the pessimistic view of Sweden's foreign relations expressed by the new Conservative prime minister. The latter in his reply created a mild sensation when he said frankly that now as head of the government he took a different stand from that which he had held as party leader; it was now his chief concern to bring all parties together in co-operation for the common welfare. Mr. Trygger has always been known as a particularly strong party man. ¶ What the debate on the budget lacked in pungency was made up in the debate on the government plan for the defense of the realm. The prime minister was attacked by his own party, the Conservatives, for allowing the defense plan to be so emasculated that it was of practically no use, and this view was sustained by the experts, while on the other hand the Liberals demanded even greater reductions. The plan calls for the abolition of the Karlsborg fortifications, some new construction in the navy but no definite program, strengthening of the aviation forces, and the curtailing of the time of compulsory military training. A commission of the Riksdag has been formed to report on the whole question. ¶ Members of the Riksdag have shown an unusual zeal in bringing in new bills, owing to the fact that this is the last session before elections. The number of new bills, totalling 496 as against little more than half that number last year, breaks all records. ¶ A very important debate on financial policies has been held. The minister of finance declared that it was the intention of the government to maintain the gold standard and to stabilize the Swedish krona in relation to the dollar instead of the pound sterling. It was impressed on the Riksdag that stringent economy was still necessary and that efforts should be made to balance production against consumption. Meanwhile the imports continue to exceed the exports. In the month of January the excess was 25,000,000 kronor. ¶ Stockholm will in the near future have its own aviation harbor. A company has been formed with this in view, and it is hoped that support may be had both from the State and the municipality. The location chosen is at Skarpnäck, where there are facilities for an aviation field on land as well as for practice at sea. The plan includes a stadion with seats for 10,000 spectators, an automobile race-course, hangars etc. ¶ Steps are being taken to preserve the picturesque ruins of the old Hansa town, Visby, which have long been the pride of the city but are now crumbling away. This work is a link in a general movement for the recording and preserving of all art treasures and antiquities, especially those that are scattered around in various old churches.

Denmark

¶ The negotiations between Norway and Denmark regarding Greenland were concluded at Kristiania January 27. The delegates, without abandoning any principle, agreed to recommend to their two governments that they should conclude a treaty regarding practical and scientific interests in Eastern Greenland, in order to prevent conflicts. A draft treaty has been submitted to the two Parliaments.

¶ There is considerable interest in an interview with Gunnar Knudsen, the eminent Norwegian statesman, who says in the Danish paper *Nationaltidende*: "If you ask me how the matter may be adjusted, then I say: As in the case of Spitsbergen. It belongs to Norway, but all are privileged to do business there. Speaking as a private citizen I will say that a similar arrangement would be best for Greenland. I cannot hide the fact that the thing which produced the irritation was the taking in custody of the Norwegian ship which sent out a boat with food to the Eskimos. That which has brought the matter to a boiling point is simply the fact that in the old days, before 1814, so many mistakes were made on the Danish side. But there is no enmity among us toward Denmark. We are friends, and time will heal all wounds."

¶ In the Landsting the bank laws were discussed with the result that the Social Democrats insisted that the National Bank should be subject to the same regulations as other banks. One phase of the discussion turned on limiting credits which in the past had led to many financial catastrophes, according to leading members of the Left party. ¶ Increased taxation to improve the Danish treasury was recommended by Finance Minister Neergaard. He emphasized that the low rate of exchange demanded for its improvement the utmost economy in governmental expenditures together with an increase in receipts obtainable only through better industrial measures.

¶ Debates in the Prussian Landtag over the German-Danish border issue were followed with the utmost interest in Denmark, since the matter had reached a point where its political aspect could not be overlooked. The German Nationals declared that the agreement reached between the German and Danish Social Democrats was not consistent with what was due Germany and that the new frontier line between the two countries was not in accordance with what the Versailles Treaty had laid down. ¶ Writing in *Berlingske Tidende*, Prince Aage contributed a series of most interesting articles about his participation in the Moroccan campaign, as a member of the Foreign Legion, during the summer of 1923. French pacification of the country was advanced, according to Prince Aage. ¶ There is cumulative evidence in industrial circles that the Ford plants for the manufacture of motor cars in Copenhagen in the near future will be expanded for the purpose of taking care of the entire Russian trade.

The American-Scandinavian Foundation

For better intellectual relations between the American and Scandinavian peoples, by means of an exchange of students, publications, and a Bureau of Information—

Officers: President, Hamilton Holt; Vice presidents, John G. Bergquist, John A. Gade and C. S. Peterson; Treasurer, H. Esk. Möller; Secretary, James Creese; Literary Secretary, Hanna Astrup Larsen; Counsel, Henry E. Almberg; Auditors, David Elder & Co.

Government Advisory Committees: *Danish*—A. P. Weis, Chief of the Department of the Ministry of Education, Chairman; *Norwegian*—K. J. Hougen, Chief of the Department of Church and Education, Chairman. The Swedish Government is represented in the Swedish American Foundation (below).

Co-operating Bodies: *Sweden*—Sverige-Amerika Stiftelsen, Malmtorgsgatan 5, Stockholm, Svante Arrhenius, President; Ira Nelson Morris, Honorary President; J. P. Seburg, Honorary Vice-President; Eva Fröberg, Secretary; *Denmark*—Danmarks Amerikanske Selskab, M. I. T. C. Clan, President; N. Feilberg, Secretary, Stjerneborg Alle 8; *Norway*—Norge-Amerika Fondet, Lille Strandgade 1, Christiania, K. J. Hougen, Chairman; Sigurd Folkestad, Secretary.

The Foundation in the West

Nothing in the recent history of the Foundation is more certain proof of the national extent of the Foundation's work than the meeting held by the Trustees in the Union League Club of Chicago on February 16. Professor William Hovgaard came to that meeting from Boston; Mr. Leach, Mr. Bergquist, Mr. Moller, and Mr. Creese, Secretary of the Foundation, came from New York. Mr. Holt, also of New York, traveled from Florida; Governor Preus came from St. Paul; and among the guests were Professor Stomberg and Professor Bothne of Minneapolis and Consul Rove of Milwaukee. Our Chicago Trustee, Mr. C. S. Peterson, and the officers of the Chicago Chapter, Colonel T. A. Siqueland, Birger Osland, Henry S. Henschen, Henry L. Hertz, and other active members represented our Chicago Associates. Thirty-five men assembled at the luncheon meeting, among them our former Minister to Sweden, Ira Nelson Morris, two State Governors, two Judges, officers of the State Bank, the Continental and Commercial Bank, the First National Bank, and the Illinois Merchants Bank, as well as President Emeritus Harry Pratt Judson and Acting President Tufts of the University of Chicago, President Scott of Northwestern University, and the Consular representatives of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden.

These men were called together to discuss the purposes and effectiveness of the Foundation, and our work was reviewed in addresses by officers of the Foundation; Mr. Holt on the history of twelve years; Professor Hovgaard on the exchange of students that has created an alumni body of three hundred young men and women; Mr. Leach on the Associates and our dependence on them for the maintenance of the REVIEW, the CLASSICS and MONOGRAPHS as advocates of the Scandinavian peoples and their cultural products; Mr. Moller on the financial administration of our endowment now yielding an annual income of \$25,000, which with other revenues by gift and subscription brings the annual budget to approximately \$100,000; Mr. Bergquist on the commercial aspects of the REVIEW; and Mr. Creese on the personal elements of the student interchange. Minister Morris told of the influence of the student exchange on public opinion in Sweden; Governor Preus, in a tribute to the late Senator Nelson, touched on the place of the Scandinavian-American in public life; and President Judson speaking on the natural ties between America and the Scandinavian countries created a new text, "The Scandinavians do not make good Americans. They are in their characteristics good Americans at home." Thus, gathered about the old Norse beaker which our late President, Profes-

sor Schofield, had inscribed to the memory of our Founder, was justified again the hope of Niels Poulsen that many men, of diverse interests and traditions, would join in advocating his ideal of friendly intercourse between Northern Europe and America.

On the evening of the meeting at the Union League Club, the Trustees were guests of the Society Dania, the Norwegian Club, the Swedish Club, and the Chicago Chapter at a dinner in the Swedish Club House. Here for a larger audience, the work of the Foundation was again described.

Chicago Chapter Reorganized

As a result of the conference in Chicago, the Chapter of Associates has been reorganized, and the Executive Committee enlarged to include with the representatives of each of the three nationalities, the Consuls of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, also a number of representatives of various educational and commercial enterprises. President Judson of the University of Chicago, President Scott of Northwestern University, Minister Morris, and Mr. Victor Elting, President of the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, were added to the Committee. A meeting of the Chicago Chapter for elections was called by the secretary of the Chapter, Dr. Carl Autonsen, for February 29.

In Rockford

From Chicago, Mr. Creese went to Rockford where there has been a Chapter for several years. Here our Trustee, Mr. C. S. Peterson spoke at a dinner on February 22 for the presentation of portraits of Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Peterson to the new Swedish hospital; and on the following evening Mr. Creese addressed a group of forty men, manufacturers of the city. Here again the unadorned tale of the accomplishments of the Foundation met with enthusiasm; and the younger

business men of Rockford, led by Mr. C. G. Ekstrom and Mr. Truman Johnson, have begun an active campaign to enlarge the Chapter and give it a more significant part in the program of the Foundation.

The Jamestown Chapter.

The Jamestown Chapter has elected as its president for 1924, Mr. J. William Sandbury. The other officers elected at the annual meeting in the Norden Club January 21, are Rev. Daniel Nystrom, Vice-President, and A. A. Anderson, Secretary-Treasurer. The Jamestown Chapter has been addressed during the past year by Hamilton Holt, President of the Foundation, Dr. Henry G. Leach, Dr. William A. Granville, Dr. Gustaf Carlson, former Fellow of the Foundation, Consul S. Munch Kielland of Buffalo, Archbishop Nathan Söderblom, Sven Hedin, and Elsa Brändström.

A Luncheon for Donors

During the first five years of our student exchange, the greater number of American subscriptions have come from donors living in the East. That the Trustees might present a final report to these donors, our Vice-President, Mr. John A. Gade, gave a luncheon at the Midday Club in New York on February 7. The records of the students with typical publications by the Fellows in every field of research made up an exhibit of the academic possibilities of the circulation of students between universities, laboratories, and scientific stations of the United States and the Scandinavian countries. The less tangible though even more important international significance of the Student interchange gave matter for brief speeches by officers of the Foundation. The guests at this luncheon were: Mr. Paul M. Warburg, Judge Frederick Bausman, Mr. Frank A. Vanderlip, Mr. Thatcher M. Brown and Mr. Speare of Brown Brothers & Co., Captain William T. Barlow of Furness

Withy & Co., Ltd., Mr. F. C. Schwedtman of the National City Bank, Mr. Clarence E. Hunter of the New York Trust Company, Mr. Donald Durant of Lee Higginson & Co., Consul-General Georg Bech, Consul-General Hans Fay, the Secretary of the Foundation, and the following Trustees: Mr. John A. Gade, Mr. Henry Goddard Leach, Mr. H. Esk. Möller, Mr. Charles S. Haight, Mr. John Aspegren, and Mr. Henry E. Almberg.

Junior League

The Junior League of the New York Chapter closed its third year with a Christmas dance in the Norwegian Club, and began its fourth year with a meeting for the election of officers on February 6. Mr. Frank Bagger, President, Mrs. H. Melin, Vice-President, Miss Hedvig Eskesen, Secretary, and Mrs. Per Drewson, Treasurer. The League has appointed a committee, Mrs. Harold Rambusch, Chairman, to arrange a dance in March.

Activities of the Foundation Staff

On Lincoln's birthday, the Secretary of the Foundation, at the invitation of the Norwegian Club, spoke in the Club house on Columbia Heights on "Abraham Lincoln in the View of his Contemporaries." Dr. P. A. Reque presided.

On February 19 the Editor of the REVIEW spoke to the Fortnightly Club in the Bronx on "Modern Scandinavian Literature," and on February 26, to the staff of the New York Travellers' Aid Society on "Scandinavian Backgrounds."

Sandzén's Work in New York Again

Birger Sandzén has again exhibited at the Babcock Galleries Western landscapes in brilliant color and splendid design. The exhibition includes oil paintings, water colors, lithographs, and wood cuts, sixty-two pieces in all. Two years ago an exhibition by him of similar scope was arranged at these galleries under the auspices of the Foundation.

Northern Lights

The Scandinavian Short Story

Scandinavian authors have not generally been considered as excelling in the short story. Perhaps the American ideal of the short story has been modified by acquaintance with European models. At any rate we note a large quota of Northern short stories among those listed in the *Boston Transcript* which recently devoted two pages to an article and lists of the best short stories of 1923 by Edward J. O'Brien. Among the volumes of short stories published during the past twelve months which seem to him worth adding to a private library we note *Selected Short Stories* by Hallström published by the Foundation and *Modern Swedish Masterpieces* selected by Charles Wharton Stork and published by Dutton. In the lists of magazine fiction the merit of the stories is indicated by asterisks, three for those of the highest rank, two for the next best, and one for the slightly less distinguished. Of the eight stories listed under the REVIEW five have three asterisks, and three have two. Of those selected from *Our World* three are by Scandinavian authors, two of them in the three star division. From *World Fiction* there are nine, of which six attain the highest honors.

Norwegian Victory at Chamonix

At the Olympic ski speed race at Chamonix, France, last February, the event was won by Thorleif Haug of Norway, whose picture readers of the REVIEW may recall in the February number. He did the eighteen kilometer speed test in one hour, fourteen minutes, and three seconds. The event is the greatest international tournament in winter sports ever held. The Norwegians demonstrated that, though they have been teaching the art of skiing to the world, they are still undisputed masters, winning at every point. Next to the Norwegians stand the Finns.

A Book of Useful Information on Norway

The long-heralded and greatly needed Norway Yearbook has now appeared. This is the first issue; S. C. Hammer is the editor and Sverre Mortensen the publisher, and they are both to be congratulated on this admirable hand-book of present day Norway. Much statistical matter has been included, and there are short compact summaries on such topics as geography, history, administration, education, literature, art, science, forestry, mining, shipping, to mention a few at random. A good index makes this mine of information readily accessible.

Hindsgavl Castle for Norden

Plans are materializing whereby the inter-Scandinavian society Norden may acquire the old historic castle of Hindsgavl at Middelfart in Denmark. This beautiful estate has been the scene of vacation courses for university students from the three Northern countries for two successive summers, and of its desirability as the ideal meeting place of these gatherings there can be little doubt. An opportunity to buy the castle has come, and a stock company known as Hindsgavl has been formed, which invites friends of Norden to purchase stock, the intention being to place the castle at the disposal of the society for its conferences and conventions.

A New Collection of Grieg Letters

The letters of Edward Grieg to his best friend Frantz Beyer, from the period 1872-1907, have now been published (Stenske forlag). Beyer had planned the book for some time and had intended to supplement the letters with sketches from their social intercourse at home and abroad, but ill health prevented him from completing the task. Now, five years after his death, his wife has given to the public these highly interesting letters, the most important and rich in content of any we have from Grieg.

The Last Eagles

In his latest works on birds Bengt Berg has perpetuated the sea-eagles of Sweden's southern coast, a species now rapidly becoming extinct. The better part of four years was employed in obtaining the photographs for the volume, and the hazards encountered in securing them makes a fascinating story of patient endurance. The author had to gain his tree-top vantage point, well before the early dawn, and remain there until after dusk in order not to alarm these wary and shy monarchs of the air. When by a mischance one colony was disturbed, he moved on to another. Successful photographs were also taken from aeroplane, and besides appearing as illustrations in this book, these pictures are being shown in a film production, making them accessible to many to whom the price of this handsome volume would be prohibitive. Norstedt and Sons are the publishers.

The Sagas in Modern Norwegian

Njal's Saga translated by Fredrik Paasche is the first volume in a series of saga translations in modern Norwegian published by Aschehoug. The version is a masterpiece in which the simplicity and style of the old Norse original has been retained to an unusual extent. The same is true of the second volume in the series which contains three sagas; those of *Viga Glum*, *Kormák*, and the *Banded Men* in a translation made by Sigrid Undset. Those who have read her story of *Kristin Lavransdatter* know what knowledge, skill, and understanding she has brought to the task. There is cause for rejoicing that these literary treasures are made accessible to the present generation in so attractive a form.

Nansen on Russia

Russia and the Peace by Nansen has now appeared in book form from the press of Jacob Dybwad, Christiania. Based on observations made while engaged in send-

ing home war prisoners and more particularly during the time he was in charge of relief work among the famine sufferers in the past two years, it is an authoritative and fair-minded account, dealing especially with economic conditions. The author stresses Russia's importance in European affairs and expresses the opinion that a resumption of normal relations with the country is a necessity for mutual advancement.

Housing in Christiania

The Swedish architect Nils Hammerstrand has contributed an article of much interest on "Housing in Christiania" to *The Journal of the American Institute of Architecture*. Owing to the shortage of low cost houses, the municipality was forced to take action, and in the last decade Christiania has spent about a hundred million kroner in erecting low rental dwellings. These groups of houses, spacious and well adapted for their purpose, harmoniously laid out with ample room for gardens and playgrounds, may well be studied by other municipalities. A dozen excellent pictures illustrate the article.

A Scandinavian Society in Texas

The Scandinavian Society of the University of Texas and the Mu Phi Epsilon honorary music sorority have had the pleasure of entertaining Dr. Carl Seashore, Dean of the Graduate School of the University of Iowa and Professor of Psychology, who addressed them in an open meeting on *The Vocational Value of Measurement of Talent in Music*.

Peer Gynt on the Stage in Christiania

The production of *Peer Gynt* at the National Theatre in Christiania has provoked some discussion in the press as to the manner of its presentation. The moot question is whether Ibsen intended it to be a colorful folk play or a sober drama relying for its interest on philosophic implication. A letter to Grieg from Ibsen

himself in which he asks Grieg to compose the incidental music for the play, giving most explicit directions as to what he wants, seems to indicate his intention quite clearly, and Björn Björnson, the director of the National Theatre, also quotes Ibsen as being entirely satisfied with the production of *Peer Gynt* as a folk play when it was given under the leadership of Halfdan Christensen.

Books

THE LONG JOURNEY. THE CIMBRIANS.

By Johannes V. Jensen, translated by A. G. Chater. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. MCMXXIII.

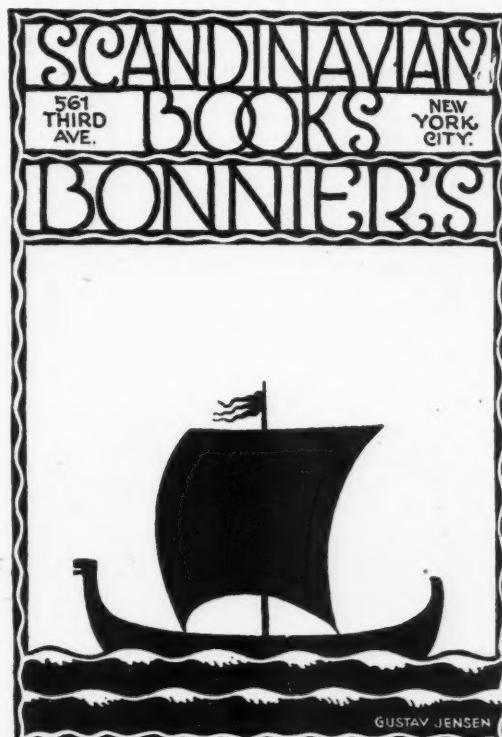
The second volume of Herr Jensen's magnificent prose epic, in a translation of excellence, will be welcome to the admirers of *Fire and Ice*. The present volume takes us from the Stone Age to the final subjugation of the restless Cimbrians by Rome. Perhaps the most interesting consideration in connection with this portion of the work was to discover whether or not the author's poetic and sweeping imagination would find itself cramped when at last it abandoned the wide plateau of that long conjectural period when mankind had only just set out, and found itself enclosed by the walls of known history. In commenting on the first volume, I had occasion to remark that Herr Jensen had succeeded in transmuting the facts of science without doing violence to them. He interwove science and romance with high skill. In the present instance, he has succeeded again; this time in interweaving history and romance. We may gauge the result of this delicate experiment by observing that the interpolated passages from Plutarch, far from jarring with the symbolic method of the book, seem so appropriate as almost to have been written especially for the place they occupy in Herr Jensen's narrative.

The characterization, with the exception of that of Norna Gest himself, is more individualized and less symbolic than in the former volume. We are now in touch with life in familiar terms, and to blend with the new atmosphere, the men and women become reduced in stature, more specific, more subtly motivated. This, too, is as it should be. In following the development of man from a being of a few primitive instincts to a highly organized mentality, the author has carved his figures with ever-increasing delicacy of detail.

There will be many, of course, who will quarrel with Herr Jensen's conception of this or that human institution. Some may take exception to the mythology, some to the treatment of the source of religions, some to the grandiose idea of the wandering Northmen. Any such objections would arise from the too current practice of confusing truth and fact. If here and there Herr Jensen shifts historical emphasis or bends an event to suit his own purpose, it is not merely to serve the caprice of wandering fancy but to reinforce the symbolism of the epic as a whole. Since, as a whole, the epic is true of the human race, such manipulation of detail is triumphantly vindicated. We are too prone, nowadays, to insist on the photographic method in narrative literature; criticism is too apt to inquire whether or not Shakespeare's Hamlet, for example, is historically "true" rather than whether or not he is humanly true. To mentalities of this sort, *The Long Journey* will be a perplexing problem.

Thus, not only is this work important in itself, but it will be, I believe, a healthy influence in literature. Herr Jensen has got rid of all the current artificialities and fashions of the day and has given himself wholly to one idea, an interpretation of all human development in terms of that divine unrest which drives man forever onward. And so it is that a masterpiece has come into being.

ROBERT HILLYER.



**BRENTANO'S
BOOKSELLERS
TO THE
WORLD**

Books in English

By

SCANDINAVIAN AUTHORS AND ABOUT SCANDINAVIA

Fiction, History, Travel,
Biography, Language,
Science, Literature and
Art.

You may obtain from us books
in English translation by Scandi-
navian authors at publishers'
prices.

Our mail-order department will
take good care of your orders
and inquiries.

BRENTANO'S
225 Fifth Avenue
NEW YORK

See CREX Rugs

in the best furniture and department stores. Or send for handsome 32-page catalog showing different rugs in natural colorings. Prices for the popular 9x12 size range from \$11 to \$22.50.

CREX CARPET CO.

295 Fifth Ave., New York City

Children and Grown-Ups too find
Immense Satisfaction in



CREX
GRASS RUGS

TRADE MARK REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

-They add a touch of refined
simplicity to every room

From Scandinavia Comes RATIN

Used the world over to exterminate rats and mice by the Ratin bacillus culture treatment.

It's harmless to human beings, domestic animals, poultry. Sanitary and Easy to use. Cost trifling compared with the damage of rats and mice. Prepared under scientific control at The Bacteriological Laboratory "Ratin" of Copenhagen. Shipped everywhere by Parcel Post.

Write for free circular to

THE RATIN LABORATORY, Inc.
116 BROAD STREET, NEW YORK

Send Your 1923 Issues Before May 1st

to us and we will have them bound for you in green cloth, with gold lettering and the seal of the Foundation stamped in gold on the side. Cost price.

Title-page and Index for 1923, now ready, sent to subscribers upon request.

AMERICAN-SCANDINAVIAN REVIEW
25 West 45th Street, New York

Jenry's
ESTABLISHED 1912

69 WEST THIRTY-SIXTH STREET
Near Herald Square

A REFINED SCANDINAVIAN
RESTAURANT in NEW YORK
(Under New Management)

*

For over Ten Years the Rendezvous
for Scandinavians from all parts of
the World when visiting New York

*

DINNER WITH FAMOUS "SMÖRGÅSBORD"
SERVED IN UPPER DINING ROOM

A la Carte All Day *Excellent Cuisines*
MUSIC EVENINGS